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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/081,163	02/20/2002	Susanna Chubinskaya	STK-081	8382

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KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART NICHOLSON GRAHAM LLP
(FORMERLY KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART LLP)
75 STATE STREET
BOSTON, MA 02109-1808

EXAMINER	
COUNTS, GARY W	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1641	

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/081,163	CHUBINSKAYA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Gary W. Counts	1641	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *21 April 2005*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-47* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) *1-8, 10-16, 22, 24-32, 35-43 and 45-47* is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *9,17-21,23,33,34 and 44* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Status of the claims

The amendment filed 04/21/05 is acknowledged and has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

> The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 9, 17-21, 23, 33, 34 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

Enablement requires that the specification teach those in the art to make and use the invention without undue experimentation. The factors that must be considered in determining undue experimentation are set forth in *In re W*ands USPTQ2d 14000. Factors to be considered in determining whether a disclosure would require undue experimentation include (1) the nature of the invention, (2) the state of the prior art, (3) the predictability or lack thereof in the art, (4) the amount of direction or guidance present, (5) the presence or absence of working examples, (6) the quantity of experimentation necessary, (7) the relative skill of those in the art, and (8) the breadth of the claims.

The instant claims are directed to a method of determining the presence of an age-related tissue disorder in a patient, the method comprising determining an amount of OP-1

protein present in a joint tissue sample from the patient; and comparing the amount of OP-1 protein present in the sample and the predetermined standard amount of OP-1 protein measured in a joint tissue sample known to not have an age-related tissue disorder present, wherein a decrease in the amount of OP-1 protein present in the patient sample compared to the predetermined standard amount is indicative of the presence of the age-related tissue disorder in the patient.

The specification fails to properly provide adequate written description to enable the methods as claimed. The specification on page 16, lines 19-23 discloses that OP-1 protein levels can be an indicia of tissue integrity or health but not necessarily an indicia of an underlying cause of tissue deterioration or ill-health. For example, OP-1 is an indicia of cartilage degeneration which accompanies inflammatory joint disease as well as an indicia of age-related cartilage deterioration which is independent of disease. The specification on page 11, lines 19-24 disclose that OP-1 protein levels decrease as a consequence of normal aging and in response to inflammation. OP-1 protein levels in cartilage decrease with increasing age of a patient regardless of the presence of observable cartilage degradation. The specification on page 6 discloses that inflammation can be caused by autoimmune disease. The specification on pages 25 and 26 discloses that such things as gout, fibromyalgea syndrome (FMS and polymyalgea rheumatica (PMR) cause a decrease in OP-protein.

The working examples are directed to determining a decrease in OP-1 protein. The specification on page 23, lines 1-11 discloses the content of endogenous OP-1 protein significantly decreased with increased age. The specification on page 26, lines 8-12 discloses that a marked decrease in OP-1 protein in OA and RA patients.

The specification only teaches decreased levels of OP-1 as age increases and teaches multiple causations for decreased OP-1 levels. The specification does not provide guidance on how to distinguish between age or osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis or gout or FMS or PMR. The specification does not provide any guidance for using these levels to positively determine an age-related tissue disorder. For example, if the sample is taken from an individual and a decreased level of OP-1 is determined as compared to a normal standard. How can one skilled in the art determine if it is age related or related to inflammation? Such is not seen as sufficient to support the breath of the claims and one skilled in the art cannot practice the claimed invention without undue experimentation, because in order to positively determine the presence of an age-related tissue disorder, one skilled in the art would have to be able to distinguish age from inflammation.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 04/21/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that claim 9, as amended and as originally filed, is fully enabled by the specification. Applicant directs Examiner's attention to page 13, line 28 to page 14, line 6 which discusses how the levels of OP-1 protein in a patient can be compared to a predetermined standard control level of OP-1 that corresponds to a particular disease, stage of disease, severity of disease or the particular tissue grade to determine whether the patient has that disease, stage of disease, severity or tissue grade. Applicant states that the specification also provides that OP-1 levels in a patient may be

compared with levels in that patient that were determined before the onset of disease or during remission of the disease. This is not found persuasive because although Applicant discloses comparing OP-1 levels to standards, the Applicant does not teach how to distinguish age from inflammation. And as stated above and as disclosed by Applicant both age and inflammation cause decreases in OP-1 protein as does such things as gout, fibromyalgea syndrome and polymyalgea rheumatica. Further, as stated above and as disclosed by Applicant on page 16, lines 19-23 the OP-1 protein levels can be an indicia of tissue integrity or health but not necessarily an indicia of an underlying cause of tissue deterioration or ill-health.

Applicant further argues that Examples 2 and 3 describe experiments in which these comparisons were made to determine whether there is a difference in the level of OP-1 protein in normal donors compared to the level of OP-1 protein in patients with an age-related disorder, i.e., osteoarthritis. Example 3 demonstrates a difference in the OP-1 levels measured in normal newborn and normal adult donors having no documented history of joint disorder compared to the OP-1 levels measured in patients who have been diagnosed with osteoarthritis. This is not found persuasive because as stated above this does not teach how to distinguish age from inflammation and therefore one cannot positively determine the presence of an age-related tissue disorder.

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gary W. Counts whose telephone number is (571) 2720817. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long Le can be reached on (571) 272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Gary Counts
Examiner
Art Unit 1641
June 21, 2005

LONG V. LE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600
06/21/05